

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 EB-11 ACDA-19 CU-04

IO-13 OIC-04 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01 EA-11 SCI-06 CEQ-02

RSR-01 /195 W

----- 065732

R 121205Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4547

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY, TS, IS

SUBJ: FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

REF: VALLETTA 1375

1. SUMMARY: IN FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE HELD JULY 11, OPPOSITION
LEADER BORG OLIVIER ACCUSED MINTOFF OF SCHIEVING NEGATIVE RESULTS
AT HELSINKI WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING FAVORABLE
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TO CHINA, AND CRITICIZED HIM FOR FAILURE SUPPORT ISRAEL.

NATIONALIST M.P. BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET SAID OPPOSITION SUPPORTED GOM WHEN IT POINTS OUT IMPORTANCE OF MED SECURITY BUT SAID NOT IN MALTA'S INTEREST TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH ONE SIDE (ARAB) OF MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE. MINTOFF DEFENDED HIS ROLE AT HELSINKI, AND SAID THAT ISSUE ARAB PARTICIPATION WOULD BE RAISED WITH GREATER FORCE AT SECOND CONFERENCE. GOM DETERMINED WITHHOLD ITS CONSENSUS TO COMPLETION PHASE II UNTIL ARAB PARTICIPATION IS ACCEPTED. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING OFF DEBATE, BORG OLIVIER CRITICIZED MINTOFF FOR FAILURE SUPPORT ISRAELI REQUEST TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN AT HELSINKI AND ASKED WHY HE DID NOT INCLUDE ISRAEL IN HIS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. MINTOFF'S POSITION WAS BEING INTERPRETED BY THE MAN ON THE STREET THAT POSSIBLE BENEFICIARY OF HIS ACTIONS WAS COMMUNIST CHINA, WHICH DID NOT WANT CONFERENCE TO SUCCEED. B-O SAID MINTOFF HAD MADE MUCH FUSS ABOUT PLAYING ROLE AS MEDIATOR IN MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE AND SAID MALTA MUST MAINTAIN A POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY. INTERRUPTING, MINTOFF SAID THAT HE NEVER STATED THAT HE WANTED TO MEDIATE. HE WAS NOT GOING TO MEDIATE WHERE MEDIATION WAS IMPOSSIBLE. CONTINUING, B-O SAID REFERENCE TO MEDIATION HAD BEEN MADE BY AMBASSADOR ATTARD-KINGSWELL AT UNITED NATIONS. HE ACCUSED MINTOFF OF CAUSING NEGATIVE RESULTS AND TAKING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME OF CONFERENCE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO BETTER USE.

3. NATIONALIST PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN ALBERT BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET FOLLOWED WITH HISTORICAL RESUME OF EVENTS LEADING TO CSCE AND RATHER CONFUSED OUTLINE OF CURRENT SITUATION IN EUROPE. EUROPE, HE SAID, MUST ESTABLISH A NEW IDENTITY AND NEW RELATIONS WITH THE TWO SUPER POWERS AND EXPRESSED HOPE SECOND AND THIRD STAGES WOULD MOVE TOWARDS THIS GOAL. ALTHOUGH SMALL, MALTA COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND, AS EXAMPLE, CITED NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL ON PEACEFUL USES OF SEABED AT THE UN. HE SAID THAT MINTOFF HAD THE OPPOSITION'S SUPPORT WHEN RAISING THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN SECURITY BUT HE WAS WRONG IN NOT REQUESTING ISRAELI PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS ARAB PARTICIPATION AND THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH ONE SIDE IN A CONFLICT. NO ONE, HE SAID, COULD SAY ANYTHING AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALGERIA OR TUNISIA. THE DIFFICULTY ABOUT THEIR INCLUSION IN THE CONFERENCE WAS PROCEDURAL ONE BASED ON OBLIGATION TO HEAR BOTH SIDES IN A CONFLICT. MINTOFF HAD TAKEN A POSITION WHICH COULDS HAVE LED TO SUSPENSION OF CONFERENCE OR MALTA'S DISSMAL FROM IT. HE HAD NOT ONLY FAILED TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS BUT HAD UNNECESSARILY OFFENDED ISRAEL.

4. IN HIS RESPONSE, MINTOFF SAID THAT IT WAS NOT TRUE TO SAY

THAT HE HAD USED THE VETO AGAINST ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH MALTA HAD NOT TAKEN INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION, IT HAD NOT OBJECTED TO ISRAEL'S BEING HEARD. DECISION TO REQUEST ARAB PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN TAKEN DURING QUADRIPARTITE TALKS HELD IN MALTA WITH LIBYA, ITAL AND TUNISIA. GOM BELIEVES ISRAEL SHOULD CONFORM TO UN RESOLUTION 242 AND WITHDRAW TO ITS PRE-1967 BORDER BEFORE ANY TALKS TAKE PLACE. GOM DID NOT SHARE QADDAFI'S VIEW THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE THROWN INTO THE SEA, BUT IT (ISRAEL) SHOULD NOT ALLOW ITS PREPONDERANCE OF POWER TO CORRUPT IT. ALL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES FEEL THAT ISRAEL IS BEING UNREASONABLE.

5. MINTOFF SAID ARAB PARTICIPATION WOULD BE RAISED WITH GREATER FORCE IN GENEVA AND THAT GOM IS DETERMINED TO WITHHOLD ITS CONSENSUS TO THE WINDING UP OF THE SECOND STAGE UNTIL ARAB PARTICIPATION IS ACCEPTED. GOM WOULD NOT OPPOSE ISRAELI PARTICIPATION BUT WOULD NOT REQUEST SUCH PARTICIPATION BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD NEVER APPROACHED IT ON SUBJECT.

6. COMMENT: WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE COMPLETED REPORT ON DEBATE, AND WILL FOLLOW UP. SEEMS CLEAR FROM FOREGOING EXTRACTED FROM PRO-AND ANTI-GOM PRESS, THAT MINTOFF WILL TAKE EVEN MORE ADAMANT POSITION IN GENEVA ON ARAB PARTICIPATION. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN DEBATE.
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